(c) There were a total of about 5.6 million patents in force worldwide in 2005 as per ***World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Patent Report: Statistics on Worldwide Patent Activity, 2007 Edition.*** However, this number includes patents obtained in different countries for the same invention also. Therefore, it will not be feasible to draw a conclusion on the proportion of patents in force in India *vis-a-vis* those in force worldwide. However, the number of Patents in India in force was 6857 in 2005.

(d) The efforts made by the Government to strengthen the processes that help creation of Intellectual Property Rights in India are as under:

(i) A scheme of Modernisation of Intellectual Property offices at a cost of Rs. 153.00 crore was implemented during the 9th and 10th Five Year Plans for Infrastructure development, computerization, human resource development and training and awareness.

(ii) Four new integrated Intellectual Property Offices were set up in Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai.

(iii) Work for the setting up of the National Institute of Intellectual Property Management at Nagpur has commenced.

(iv) E-filing of Patent applications has been made operational with effect from 20th July, 2007.

(v) Seminars/Conferences/Workshops at national and international level have been organized for creating awareness and promotion of Intellectual Property Rights.

(vi) Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been signed between India and France, United States of America, United Kingdom, European Patent Office, Japan, Switzerland and Germany for cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property Rights.

Extending provisions of IDR Act to tiny cigarette units

1633. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that manufacture of cigarettes are under compulsory licensing under the industrial policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some small units are producing cigarettes without obtaining Industrial Licence and the Industries Development and Regulation (IDR) Act, many times leading to unscrupulous activities;

(c) whether Government proposes to remove this lacuna by extending the provisions of IDR Act to every unit including the tiny ones; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 licence to manufacture cigarette is required by factories where for

manufacturing with the aid of power, 50 or more workers, or for manufacturing without aid of the power, 100 or more workers, are working or were working on any day of the preceding 12 months. No case of manufacture of cigarettes in violation of the provisions of the aforesaid Act has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration of Government to remove the above provisions of the Act to every unit including the tiny ones.

Report on Patent Laws

1634. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report submitted by Technical Expert Group on Patent Laws during December, 2006 had been withdrawn due to plagiarism in the report;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been initiated for fixing responsibility on plagiarism in the report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Chairman of the Technical Expert Group (TEG) on patent law issues, namely, Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, requested the Government for approval to "withdraw the Report, re-examine it and resubmit a Report which meets with the requirements of the highest standards" The Government had agreed to allow the TEG to remove the "technical inaccuracies" in the Report.

Study on impact of anti-tobacco legislation

1635. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Board has done any study of the impact of anti-tobacco legislation on the farmers;

(b) if so, the details of this study;

(c) what are the salient findings;

(d) in what way does Government propose to protect tobacco from a host of anti-tobacco laws and harassment; and

(e) the steps proposed to evolve a proactive policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The increased production of FCV tobacco and rising prices realized in tobacco auctions indicate that there is no real adverse impact or harassment of tobacco farmers. The Tobacco Board effectively regulates the production and sale of FCV tobacco to ensure that the farmers continue to get reasonable price for their product.